

**Political Science 2240**  
Introduction to International Relations  
Baruch College, Fall 2018  
Professor: David Lindsey  
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### **1. Contact Information**

You can reach me most easily by email at [david.lindsey@baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:david.lindsey@baruch.cuny.edu). You can also speak with me after class or visit my office hours. I will hold office hours every Tuesday and Thursday from 1-2 PM (unless otherwise announced) in VC 5-274. If you are unable to come during this time, I am also available by appointment.

### **2. Course Description**

This course will introduce students to the scholarly study of international relations. We will emphasize theoretical understanding, rather than focusing on either history or current events. We will begin by studying the underlying dynamics of the international system, including the effects of power, anarchy, and institutions. Next, we will study specific forms of international interaction in the areas of international security and international political economy. Finally, we will analyze change in the international system over time and debate several important issues in international affairs.

### **3. Learning Goals**

- Compare domestic and international politics and identify differences between the two.
- Identify the underlying assumptions embedded in theories of, and arguments about, international relations.
- Evaluate whether or not the conclusions of theories and arguments follow logically from their assumptions.
- Assess the empirical evidence for and against theories of international relations.
- Apply theories of international relations to both historical cases and contemporary debates.

### **4. Readings**

There is no textbook for this course. All readings will be available on Blackboard. I expect you to complete all of the assigned readings. You will be held accountable for everything in the assigned readings, whether or not we discuss the specific material in class. All readings should be completed *before* coming to the class on the day they have been assigned. I have attempted to keep the total amount of reading relatively low, but you should read carefully and analytically. Most of the readings advance a specific argument. As you read, pay close attention to the assumptions involved in each argument, how the author uses these assumptions to reach conclusions, and whether or not the available evidence supports the argument. Be prepared to discuss these questions in class.

In addition to the assigned readings, I expect you to stay informed about contemporary developments in international relations. There are many ways to stay up to date on the news, but

I particularly recommend reading a major newspaper. The Baruch library provides students with free online access to *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* see:

- <http://guides.newman.baruch.cuny.edu/newyorktimes>
- <http://guides.newman.baruch.cuny.edu/wallstreetjournal>

## 5. Assignments and Grading

Your grade will be determined by the following assignments, which are described in more detail below.

Assignment	Weight	Due Date
Class Participation and Attendance	5%	Ongoing
Pop Quizzes	15%	At any time
First Midterm Exam	30%	October 16
Second Midterm Exam	30%	November 20
Debate Paper and Presentation	20%	November 29, December 4, December 6, or December 11

*Class Participation and Attendance:* You should complete the readings before each class and come prepared to engage in substantive discussion. Quality of participation is more important than quantity, and I will assign each student a score at the end of the semester that reflects their overall contribution to our discussions and learning environment. Your participation grade will also reflect your attendance. I expect you to come to every class session unless you present a valid excuse in advance. I recognize that you may occasionally need to miss class, so I will allow you to miss two sessions without any penalty. Further absences will result in a grade reduction.

*Pop Quizzes:* I will, at my discretion, give pop quizzes at the beginning of our course sessions. These quizzes will assess whether you have completed and understood the readings for the day in question. The frequency of quizzes will depend on the quality of our in class discussion. I will assign more quizzes if it appears that you are not doing the readings. If you are absent on the day a pop quiz is assigned (or you come too late to take the quiz), you will receive a grade of zero.

*Midterm Exams (October 16 and November 20):* You will complete two in class midterm exams. Both are comprehensive for all material up to the date of the midterm exam. While the second midterm will focus on material from after the first midterm, I reserve the right to ask questions about the first portion of the course. The exams may include questions that ask you to apply course material to current events, and I will presume that you have a basic familiarity with major international developments that occur during the semester.

*Final Debates (November 29 - December 11):* We will devote our last four course sections to debating four important questions about contemporary international relations. I will split you into eight groups (two sides for each debate) of 4-5 students. Each group will be assigned to either agree or disagree with the given statement. You will work with your group to present your argument as compellingly and convincingly as possible. We will discuss this assignment further, but your the basic components include writing a “Briefing Paper” for your classmates and then delivering an oral presentation. You must:

- Draft a 6-8 page briefing paper (as a group) and submit this at least one week before your presentation. Your opponents, your classmates, and I will all read this briefing paper.
- Deliver a 12-18 minute group presentation laying out your argument for your classmates (your opponents will also deliver a 12-18 minute presentation)
- Deliver a 5-7 minute rebuttal to your opponent’s argument.
- After the two presentations, you will answer questions about your position from your classmates.

## **6. Academic Misconduct**

I will severely punish any cheating or plagiarism. If you are unsure what constitutes cheating, please see [https://www.baruch.cuny.edu/academic/academic\\_honesty.html](https://www.baruch.cuny.edu/academic/academic_honesty.html) or contact me. If you commit any academic integrity violation, you will fail the course. We will discuss specific policies and guidelines for each assignment before it is due.

## **7. Late Assignments**

I do not accept late assignments without advance permission except in response to genuine emergencies. If you believe that you must turn in an assignment late, please contact me as soon as possible. I will only grant permission to turn in an assignment late in response to genuinely exceptional circumstances.

## **8. Disabilities**

If you have a disability that may require an accommodation in this course, please let me know. Baruch College also has an office dedicated to serving Baruch Students with disabilities. If you identify as an individual with a disability, and you wish to request accommodations or academic adjustments in order to meet the academic requirements of this course, please visit Student Disability Services, Newman Vertical Campus, Room 2-271, or call (646) 312-4590. Being registered with Student Disability Services is confidential, and is not recorded on your Baruch Academic Record.

## 9. Course Schedule and Readings

<b>Date</b>	<b>Readings and Assignments</b>
August 28	<i>Course Introduction</i> No required reading - please carefully review the syllabus after class
<b>Power and Anarchy</b>	
August 30	Thomas Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , Ch. XIII <i>*Note: This reading is very short but very dense. Please read it carefully and attentively*</i>
September 4	Selections from Napoleon Chagnon, <i>Noble Savages</i>
September 6	John Mearsheimer, <i>The Tragedy of Great Power Politics</i> , Chapter 2
<b>Institutions and Cooperation</b>	
September 11	<i>*No meeting - College closed*</i>
September 13	Robert Axelrod, <i>The Evolution of Cooperation</i> , Chapters 1 and 2
September 18	<i>*No meeting - College closed*</i>
September 20	John Ikenberry, "Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Persistence of the American Postwar Order"
<b>War and International Security</b>	
September 25	Carl von Clausewitz, <i>On War</i> , Book 1 Chapter 1
September 27	James Fearon, "Rationalist Explanations for War" <i>*Note: This reading is more technical than most of our assignments and includes some game theory that may be difficult to understand. Please read the article carefully and attempt to get the gist of the argument but do not worry about the mathematical details*</i>
October 2	Geoffrey Blainey, <i>The Causes of War</i> 3rd Edition, Chapter 3
October 4	Scott Sagan, "The Origins of the Pacific War"
October 9	David Lake, "Two Cheers for Bargaining Theory"
October 11	<i>*Midterm Review Session*</i>
October 16	<i>*First Midterm Exam In Class*</i>

<b>Trade and International Political Economy</b>	
October 18	Douglas Irwin, <i>Free Trade Under Fire</i> , pp. 31-59
October 23	Dani Rodrik, <i>The Globalization Paradox</i> , Chapter 3
October 25	Dani Rodrik, <i>The Globalization Paradox</i> , Chapters 2 and 4
October 30	<i>*Session on Making Strong Debate Arguments*</i>
<b>Ideas and Change</b>	
November 1	Nina Tannenwald, "The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-Use"
November 6	Martha Finnemore, <i>The Purpose of Intervention</i> , Ch. 2
November 8	<i>*No meeting*</i>
November 13	Chaim Kaufmann and Robert Pape, "Explaining Costly International Moral Action: Britain's Sixty-year Campaign Against the Atlantic Slave Trade"
November 15	Joseph Nye, <i>Soft Power</i> , Chapter 1
November 20	<i>Second Midterm Exam in Class</i>
November 22	<i>*No meeting — College closed*</i>
<b>Debating International Relations</b>	
November 27	Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?"
November 29	Debate #1: Terrorism is one of the most important threats to global peace and security.
December 4	Debate #2: Nuclear weapons make the world safer.
December 6	Debate #3: The level of global economic openness is likely to fall significantly over the next decade.
December 11	Debate #4: Over the next several decades, China will be a more important actor internationally than the United States.